UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

SEP 21 2015

Mr. Ryan Flynn, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502

RE: Approval of the non-nutrient *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Sacramento Mountains [Rio Hondo, Tularoso, and Rio Peñasco Watersheds]*

Dear Mr. Flynn:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency received the New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau's request for EPA review and approval of the final document titled *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Sacramento Mountains [Rio Hondo, Tularoso, and Rio Peñasco Watersheds]* (henceforth, 'Final Report'). The Final Report includes TMDLs for *Escherichia coli* and turbidity.

Based on our review, we conclude that the TMDLs contained in the Final Report meet the requirements found in Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations found at 40 CFR § 130.7. The EPA is pleased to approve the TMDLs contained in the Final Report as summarized in the enclosed table. The EPA also acknowledges that these TMDLs will be incorporated as updates to the State of New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the SWQB, and we commend you and your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing these TMDLs. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me at (214) 665-7101 or Miranda Hodgkiss of my staff at (214) 665-7538.

Sincerely,

William K. Honker, P.E.
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: James Hogan, NMED, Surface Water Quality Bureau Chief
Heidi Henderson, NMED, TMDL Coordinator
Kay Bonza, NMED, Office of General Counsel

Enclosure: Summary Tables for the *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Sacramento Mountains [Rio Hondo, Tularoso, and Rio Peñasco Watersheds]*

Table 1: TMDL Allocations					
Pollutant		**TMDL**	**WLA**	**LA**	**MOS**
Carrizo Creek (Rio Ruidoso to Mescalero Apache boundary), 20.6.4.209, NM-2209.A_22					
E. coli (cfu/day)		5.73×10^{8}	0	4.87×10^{8}	8.6×10^{7}
Rio Bonito (NM 48 near Angus to headwaters), 20.6.4.209, NM-2209.A_10					
E. coli (cfu/day)		2.20×10^{9}	0	1.87×10^{9}	3.30×10^{8}
Nogal Creek (Tularosa Creek to Mescalero Apache boundary), 20.6.4.801, NM-2801_10					
E. coli (cfu/day)		1.62×10^{9}	0	1.38×10^{9}	2.44×10^{8}
Rio Ruidoso (Eagle Creek to US Hwy 70 bridge), 20.6.4.208, NM-2208_20					
E. coli (cfu/day)		1.77×10^{10}	1.29×10^{10}	3.05×10^{9}	1.77×10^{9}
TSS[a] (lbs/day)	Duration (consecutive hrs)				
	720	575.51	418.83	99.12	57.55
	336	730.22	531.42	125.77	73.02
	168	897.30	653.02	154.55	89.73
	144	940.62	684.55	162.01	94.06
	120	1,030.35	749.85	177.46	103.03
	96	1,120.08	815.15	192.92	112.01
	72	1,265.50	920.99	217.97	126.55
Rio Ruidoso (US Hwy 70 bridge to Carrizo Creek), 20.6.4.209, NM-2209.A_21					
E. coli (cfu/day)		4.82×10^{9}	0	4.34×10^{9}	4.82×10^{8}
Agua Chiquita (perennial portions McEwan Canyon to headwaters), 20.6.4.208, NM-2208_01					
TSS[a] (lbs/day)	Duration (consecutive hrs)				
	720	38.90	0	33.06	5.83
	336	52.60	0	44.71	7.89
	168	66.75	0	56.73	10.01
	144	70.28	0	59.74	10.54
	120	76.91	0	65.37	11.54
	96	83.98	0	71.39	12.60
	72	94.15	0	80.03	14.12

Table 1, Continued					
Pollutant		**TMDL**	**WLA**	**LA**	**MOS**
Rio Peñasco (Hwy 24 to Cox Canyon), 20.6.4.208, NM-2208_00					
TSS[a] (lbs/day)	Duration (consecutive hrs)				
	720	390.40	0	351.36	39.04
	336	549.07	0	494.17	54.91
	168	707.75	0	636.97	70.77
	144	748.05	0	673.24	74.80
	120	826.13	0	743.51	82.61
	96	904.21	0	813.79	90.42
	72	1,022.58	0	920.33	102.26

[a] Total suspended solids (TSS) are being used as a surrogate for turbidity.

Table 2: Individual Point Source WLAs				
Facility	**Permit**	**Pollutant**	**WLA (lbs/day)**	
Rio Ruidoso (Eagle Creek to US Hwy 70 bridge), 20.6.4.208, NM-2208_20				
City of Ruidoso Downs/Village of Ruidoso WWTP	NM0029165	*E. coli* (cfu/day)	1.29×10^{10}	
		TSS (lbs/day)	Duration (consecutive hrs)	
			575.51	418.83
			730.22	531.42
			897.30	653.02
			940.62	684.55
			1,030.35	749.85
			1,120.08	815.15
			1,265.50	920.99